

# Marlow's rowers in the air

The First World War was the first time that airplanes were used in warfare. Two of the rowing club's members served in the air and died during the conflict. Both served in the Royal Flying Corps which was the air arm of the British Army until it merged with the Royal Naval Air Service in April 1918 to form the Royal Air Force.

Lyonel Clark was the first of the two rowing club casualties to serve in the air. He was born in Bourne End in 1898 and enlisted as a Lieutenant in the Royal Horse Artillery in August 1915. In March 1916, he was attached to the Royal Flying Corps and was posted to France in May, where he served as a Reconnaissance Officer. He was killed in August 1916, aged 18, when his plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire over German lines during a reconnaissance patrol. He is buried in Beaumetz Communal Cemetery in Cartigny, France.



Lyonel Clark.  
Photo courtesy of Clayesmore School.



Ipoh War Memorial, Malaysia where Arthur Hepworth is commemorated.



BE2c, two-seat reconnaissance aircraft, used by the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) during the First World War.  
Photo courtesy of Imperial War Museum.

Arthur Hepworth was born in Hedsor in 1886 and was educated at Sir William Borlase's School between 1897 and 1899. In 1911, he moved to Malaysia where he worked as a broker. When war broke, Arthur came back to Britain to enlist as a Lieutenant in the Queen's (West Surrey) Regiment. He served initially in the Gallipoli campaign in 1915 where he was wounded and awarded the Military Cross. He then served in Egypt and in September 1917 transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. He was killed in action in May 1918 and is buried in Ramleh War Cemetery in what is now Israel. He is also commemorated on a memorial at St. Nicholas Church in Hedsor and on the Ipoh War Memorial in Malaysia. Arthur coxed the club's Town Cup Four at Marlow Regatta in 1897.